

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claim 72 for the pending claim 72:

72. (Once amended) A competent *E. coli* possessing a membrane having an increased unsaturated fatty acid content relative to total fatty acid content, wherein said competent *E. coli* exhibits enhanced transformation ability after storage at a temperature of from about +4°C to about -20°C relative to the transformation ability exhibited by said competent *E. coli* prior to increasing its unsaturated fatty acid content.